

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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SUBJECT: MALI'S FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON OAU FOREIGN
MINISTER MEETING

1. SUMMARY: MALI FOREIGN MINISTER, LT. COLONEL CHARLES SAMBA
SISSOKO, TOLD REPORTERS UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE 24TH SESSION
OF THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA THAT THE
OAU BUDGET SESSION WAS NOT LIMITED TO THE BUDGET BUT IN-
VOLVED WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE
RHODESIA QUESTION AND ARAB-AFRICAN COOPERATION. ACCORDING
TO AN ACCOUNT IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE MALI GOVERN-
MENT, OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED INCLUDED: (1) WHETHER TO GRANT
AUTONOMY TO THE EXCLAVE OF CABINDA; (2) CRITICISM
BY SOME OAU MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA
NEGOTIATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY TANZANIA, BOTSWANA, AND
ZAMBIA, OUTSIDE OF THE OAU FRAMEWORK; (3) COMPETING
REQUESTS BY SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA TO HOST AN OAU COMMITTEE
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DEALING WITH DECOLONIZATION OF THE AFAR-ISSA TERRITORY; AND

(4) A DEBATE CONCERNING THE LATEST SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THIS LAST ISSUE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED A BITTER EXCHANGE BETWEEN ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA AND THE IVORY COAST DELEGATE.

2. A. ACCORDING TO MALI FOREIGN MINISTER, LT. COLONEL CHARLES SAMBA SISSOKO, WHO ATTENDED THE 24TH SESSION OF THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA, SEVERAL IMPORTANT ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED IN ADDITION TO THE APPROVAL OF THE OAU'S US \$7. MILLION BUDGET FOR 1975-76. IN A NEWS CONFERENCE UPON HIS RETURN, SISSOKO SIGNED TWO ISSUES: ESTABLISHING IMPROVED CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ARAB AND AFRICAN STATES AND EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN TO BRING ABOUT A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA. IN THIS REGARD, SISSOKO OBSERVED THAT THE INTENTION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM RHODESIA WAS QUOTE A POSITIVE STEP UNQUOTE.

B. REPORTING ON SEVERAL OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE RECENT OAU SESSION, MALI'S OFFICIAL ORGAN, L'ESSOR, NOTED THAT THERE WAS LONG DEBATE ABOUT THE CHOICE OF LOCATION FOR AN OAU SUB-REGIONAL COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH PROMOTING THE DECOLONIZATION OF THE FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFAR-ISSA. SOMALIA SUGGESTED MOGADISCIO FOR THE COMMITTEE'S VENUE WHILE ETHIOPIA SUGGESTED A SITE WITHIN ITS BORDERS, AT DIRE DAWA. THE ISSUE WAS LEFT FOR RESOLUTION BY THE OAU CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING IN KAMPALA NEXT JULY.

C. L'ESSOR ALSO REPORTED ON THE EXPANSION OF THE OAU COMMITTEE OF SEVEN TO TWELVE. (THIS COMMITTEE, NOW UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MANSOUR KHALID, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER OF SUDAN, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ELICITING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ARAB OIL PRODUCERS TO OFFSET RECENT PRICE INCREASES.)

D. ACCORDING TO L'ESSOR, OAU DELEGATES TOOK BOTSWANA, TANZANIA, AND ZAMBIA TO TASK FOR HAVING ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRETORIA OVER RHODESIA RATHER THAN WORKING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OAU FOR ARRANGING A SETTLEMENT. OAU DELEGATES ASKED THESE THREE COUN-

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TRIES TO SEND MISSIONS TO MEMBER COUNTRIES EXPLAINING THE RESULTS OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES.

E. TO COUNTER SOUTH AFRICA'S DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE, OAU MEMBERS REPORTEDLY PASSED A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA AND, FOLLOWING A BITTER DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA, CALLED FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY OAU COUNCIL MEETING IN TANZANIA IN APRIL TO DISCUSS

SOUTH AFRICA'S RECENT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES.

F. ANOTHER ISSUE ACCORDING TO L'ESSOR, INVOLVED THE FUTURE STATUS OF CABINDA AS PART OF ANGOLA OR AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE. CONGO FOREIGN MINISTER, DAVID GANAO SPEAKING FOR PRESIDENTS NGOUABI (CONGO) AND MOBUTO (ZAIRE) WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ARGUED IN FAVOR OF AN INDEPENDENT STATUS FOR CABINDA. THE L'ESSOR ARTICLE NOTED THAT THIS QUESTION WILL ALSO BE BROUGHT UP AT THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING IN KAMPALA.

G. A FINAL ACTION OF THE OAU BUDGET SESSION WAS THE EXPRESSION OF ITS CONCERN OVER THE NOMINATION OF NATHANIEL DAVIS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRES IN THE LIGHT OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE OVERTHROW OF THE ALLENDE REGIME IN CHILE.

COMMENT:

SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER SISSOKO'S REMARKS APPEARED IN THE SAME ISSUE OF MALI'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER, L'ESSOR, AS THE ARTICLE REPORTING THE RESULTS OF THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN ADDIS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES SISSOKO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION REPORTED IN BOTH ARTICLES.

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